



Michigan Indian Quarterly

Fall 2004



Michigan Department of Civil Rights

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Lansing, Michigan 48933

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MICHIGAN INDIAN QUARTERLY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS



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The Michigan Department of Civil Rights assists American Indian organizations, individuals and tribal governments with issues of employment, civil rights, housing, health, education, treaty rights, and other such rights or services due Indians of this state.

The Michigan Indian Quarterly welcomes articles and events of interest from tribes, urban groups and the people they serve for consideration.

The Quarterly is sent free of charge. To receive a copy please call: (517) 335-3165. To obtain a copy of this publication in an alternative format, please call (800) 482-3604.

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Greetings From Director Linda V. Parker, J.D.

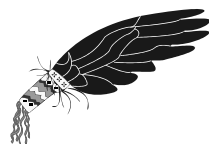
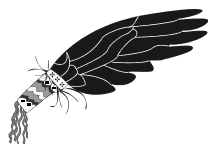
Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2004 edition of the Michigan Indian Quarterly. I have become even more hopeful as recent events highlight increased cooperation between American Indian tribes and the Michigan state government. I remain well aware of the distance yet to be traveled, but I am also encouraged that we are at least traveling forward.

Many of my colleagues in leadership positions are beginning to realize that tribal sovereignty does not preclude being inclusive with respect to the interests of American Indians. Tribal, federal and state governments can and must cooperate to protect mutual interests and provide effective and efficient services to the people who reside within the relevant jurisdictions. In addition, American Indian residents of Michigan who do not reside on tribal properties deserve the same attention to their interests as all who reside in Michigan.

It was in that spirit of cooperation that I was honored to attend and introduce Governor Granholm at the Governors' Interstate Indian Council's 2004 Annual Conference on August 11-14, 2004. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for state and tribal leadership to share our successes with leaders from other states, while perhaps learning how we could improve our conditions here at home.

In September 2004, Governor Granholm extended her commitment to the American Indian community by appointing Matthew Wesaw of Lansing to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Wesaw is director of government relations for the Michigan State Police Troopers Association and former chair and current tribal council member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian Nation. It is our hope that this addition to our Commission results in an even closer working relationship between state and tribal governments and the people they serve.

This edition of the Michigan Indian Quarterly will hopefully provide even more evidence of a growing inclusiveness. Highlights include Michigan State University College of Law launching the first American Indian Law Program in the Midwest and the openings of the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways in Mount Pleasant and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Please enjoy this communication and I look forward to our future interactions.



Greetings From American Indian Affairs

Thank you to all supporters and attendees of the 2004 Governors' Interstate Indian Conference. The conference had over 100 attendees and 23 speakers, with representatives from American Indian organizations, each of the Michigan Federally Recognized Tribes and 15 other states. Thanks again for making this conference such a great success.

The office continues to make strides in the "*American Indian Off-reservation Agenda*" that addresses the needs and concerns of the approximately 87% of American Indians in Michigan who live off the reservation.

One of the areas of concern outlined in the agenda was education. To address this concern, a second in a series of Community Educational forums is scheduled to meet this Fall. This forum will bring together community members and teachers to discuss ways to implement strategies for the elimination of American Indian mascots and logos.

Also, MDCR is working with other state departments to develop and design a statewide diversity program. One of the components of the program will be a hands-on training. In addition, MDCR continues to provide the "*Building Cultural Competency/Michigan Ethnic Group Experience*" training for state departments, non-profits and businesses.

We are working on updating the *Michigan Indian Directory* and hope to have it published by January 2005. Also, the "*Tracing Your Indian Ancestry*" pamphlet has been updated and is now available for distribution.

Sincerely,
Donna L. Budnick
MDCR American Indian Affairs Specialist



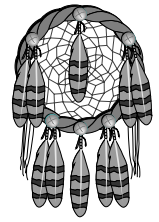
The National Labor Relations Board's Decision

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1935 to govern the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). The Act protects the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively with their employers. It generally applies to unions and all employers involved in interstate commerce.

On May 28, 2004, in the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino case the NLRB reversed a 30-year old decision considering Indian tribes as governmental entities not subject to the NLRA. The Board decided by a 3-1 vote to assert jurisdiction over American Indian owned and operated commercial enterprises, regardless of whether they are located on or off reservation land. This will allow employees of tribally owned businesses to form labor unions. Tribes are concerned that the NLRB's decision will devalue the long traditions of tribal sovereignty.



Governor Appointments



The Governor's Office Appointments Division is responsible for making certain that the composition of each Board reflects the diversity of Michigan citizens served. The Division receives thousands of applications for various positions from women and men throughout Michigan and the country. From this pool of applicants, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm selects appointees that represents the core values of her administration.

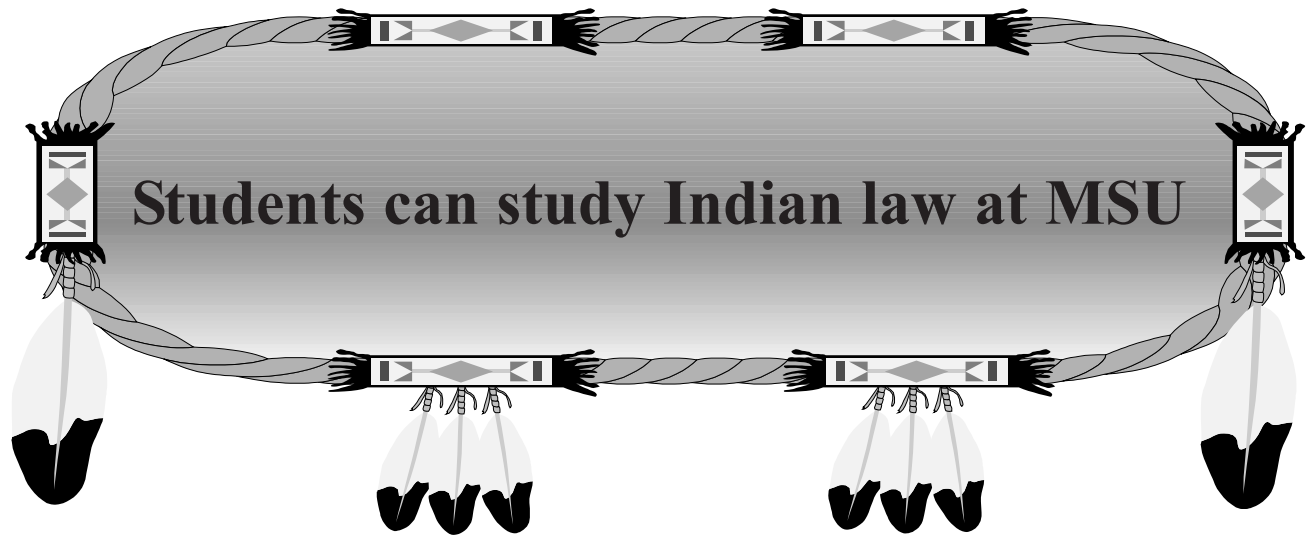
Most recently, Governor Granholm announced the appointment of Matthew J. Wesaw to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Matthew Wesaw, of Lansing, is the director of government relations for the Michigan State Police Troopers Association. He retired from the Michigan State Police in 2001 after 25 years of service, and is a former member of the Michigan Community Service Commission. He is also former chair and current tribal council member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian Nation, and a former Commissioner for the now defunct Michigan Commission on Indians Affairs.

Another new appointment is Gail J. Glezen of Sault Ste. Marie, assistant housing director of Bay Mills Indian Community Housing Authority. She was appointed to serve on the Michigan Women's Commission which is also housed within the Department of Civil Rights. The commission focuses on such things as improving quality of life for women in the state by studying and reviewing the status of Michigan women, recommending methods to overcome discrimination, and recognizing the accomplishments of women in Michigan.

Carol L. Bergquist, Ph.D., of Wilson College, director of vocational rehabilitation services at Hannahville Indian Community has been reappointed to the Michigan Rehabilitation Advisory Council to represent vocational rehabilitation counselors. Dr. Bergquist has also been appointed to represent American Indian vocational rehabilitation projects on the Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council.

Chi-Megwetch!!

If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission, you can obtain an application on-line at www.michigan.gov



There are 562 federally recognized tribes in the United States, of which 12 are in Michigan, and more are continually petitioning for recognition. It's critical that lawyers are educated in American Indian law.

Michigan State University College of Law is launching the first American Indian Law Program in the Midwest. It will offer one of only two formal programs east of the Mississippi River. Only 20 law schools nationwide have formal American Indian law programs, and now the state of Michigan is included in offering this great opportunity. This program is one of the most comprehensive programs in the nation among American Bar Association accredited law schools.

Statistically, a small percentage of attorneys practice in the field of American Indian law and even fewer lawyers are American Indian. In fact, less than one-fifth of one percent of all lawyers in the United States is Native.

In the program, students will learn how to assist tribal governments with their policy-making objectives. This will include conducting research to create, practice and enhance their legal infrastructures on regional, national and international levels.

MSU's program will offer students the ability to develop a special expertise in indigenous law, practice and policy, with both theoretical and practical learning components provided by an Indigenous Law Clinic and several elective courses. The program's four classes include a clinical one in which law students will work with tribal governments on everything from developing tax codes to zoning regulations.

For more information, visit Michigan State University Law School's website: www.law.msu.edu



The Power of the Native Vote



The right to vote is debatably one of the most important rights of citizenship in a democratic country, yet a significant number of U.S. citizens choose not to exercise this right. In order to vote in Michigan you must be 18 years of age or older by election day, a citizen of the United States and have registered by the registration deadline for the next election.

In the state of Michigan registering to vote is an easy process. Michigan was the first state in the nation to put into practice “motor/voter” registration, allowing residents to register to vote at any Secretary of State Branch office.

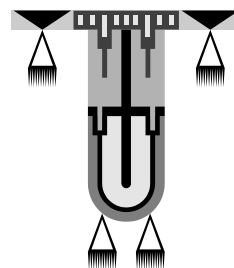
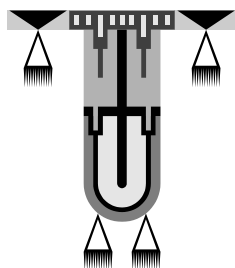
The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 gave American Indians U.S. citizenship and the right to vote, but the realization of equal voting rights was long delayed for many American Indians as states continued to supercede federal jurisdiction and institute their own laws. It was not until the Voting Rights Acts of 1965 & 1973 that many American Indians received full access to democratic participation.

The National Congress of American Indians, the nation’s largest Indian organization, is currently orchestrating nonpartisan voter registration efforts. The Congress is coordinating with Indian organizations on reservations and minority advocates in areas with high native concentrations. American Indian leaders are working to get one million new native voters to the polls in November.

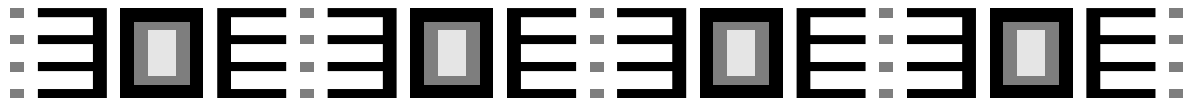
In Michigan, American Indians make up 1.3 percent of the state’s population. The number of eligible Native voters is 2.9 percent of the total vote. In selected districts, eligible American Indian voters are a valuable asset as a voting bloc to politicians in the area. Even in Congressional Districts where Native People do not amount to 5% of the population, they still have the ability to impact state, local and even national elections. The potential impact of the Indian vote in 2004, can be reckoned from the simple fact that in some states, Indian voters can swing the vote for both the presidency and the majority party in the Senate.

Election Day is November 2, 2004.

Don’t forget to Vote!



Unity Ride and Run



For the last three years, Eric Mitchell of the Okanagan Reserve in central British Columbia has been a host of a sacred journey through Canada. He and his fellow travelers have traveled eastward across the prairies connecting with numerous tribes, retracing the steps of their ancestors.

The Unity Ride was initiated in 1986 by the Lakota Elders of North and South Dakota. Their nation was broken after the Wounded Knee massacre in 1890. A vision showed them that they must retrace the path of their ancestors and “wipe the tears for the seventh generation to have a better life.”

Since 1986, hundreds of men, women and children have ridden on horseback and run thousands of miles to retrace their ancestor’s footsteps. On their journey, they pray for the healing of the nations. For those they meet, this encounter can serve as a time of reflection and motivation to take an active role toward change.

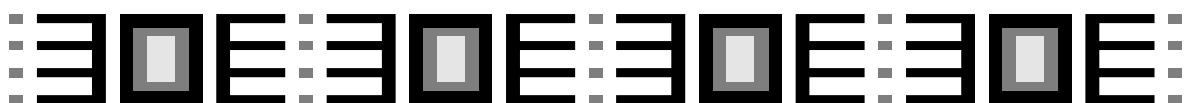
In 1990, the fourth year of their journey, they recognized that their prayers were for “all peoples” and rode into Canada. Because its founders came to the realization that their prayers were for everyone, they named their journey the Unity Ride and Run.

The Cree Peoples were handed the sacred staffs in 1997 and journeyed throughout their traditional territories, from Pheasant Rump, Saskatchewan to the Pas, Manitoba, through Alberta and into British Columbia. In 2000, the Okanagan accepted the staffs and traveled through their ancestor’s territories and sacred sites in the Rockies.

Also in 2000, they decided to move towards Iroquoian territory and honor the Iroquois “Great Tree of Peace” as the symbol known throughout the Americas as unity and strength. Visiting many communities with a message of unity will honor the grandmothers’ spirits and women, in the desire to restore balance within our nations.

During the spring of 2003, the Unity Ride and Run began another historic journey from Sioux Valley, Manitoba toward the Six Nations of Grand River, Ontario, arriving in time to open the International Elders Summit in August of 2004.

The goal is to create youth leadership, and pride. For further information please contact: Elders Summit Coordinator at (519) 445-4714 (local); or 1 (866) 862-7466 (toll free); or by email elderssummit@hotmail.com or visit the website at www.elderssummit2004.ca.





The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) held its grand opening on Tuesday, September 21, 2004.

The opening of NMAI on the National Mall marked a cultural achievement as Native Americans from North, Central, and South America fulfilled a long-awaited dream to share and honor their cultures with visitors from all over the world.

The museum's grand opening included numerous activities during a week of festivities marking the historic event. Dignitaries included Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Lawrence M. Small, Senator Daniel Inouye and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell who delivered opening remarks.

Richard West, the first and only director of the NMAI and a Southern Cheyenne said, "Instead of having our exhibition articulated in the third person, it is articulated in the first person. Native communities deserve a place at the table in the conversation about the life experience of their people and in interpreting their own lives in their own voices."

NMAI's collections include materials not only of cultural, historical, and aesthetic interest, but also of spiritual significance. Funerary, religious, and ceremonial objects associated with living cultures are displayed only with the approval of the appropriate tribes.



The museum's galleries and display spaces house both permanent and temporary exhibitions. The museum's permanent exhibitions, Our Universes, Our Peoples, and Our Lives, represent important ideas and experiences in Native life and history. Temporary exhibitions will present individual artists' works, explore specific themes in Indian culture, or bring objects from other institutions to the museum. The museum's galleries also include cases containing study collections and outstanding objects from the museum's collections.

The museum was established by Congressional Act in 1989. Through a combination of public and private support, it took 15 years to become a reality. Almost half of the costs were from donations with 35 million coming from American Indians and Tribes. Built between the National Air and Space Museum and the Capitol, NMAI is the newest of the Smithsonian's Institutions. In keeping with many American Indian traditions, the museum was built facing the eastern direction toward the rising sun.

Gazing at artifacts is not the only thing visitors will experience. Inside the museum, the exhibitions take up less than 30 percent of the space. The remaining space is committed to other functions, including a library center, the ceremonial atrium and performance pit, two theatres, gift shops and a food court.

For more information, visit the museum's website: www.nmai.si.edu



The Ziibiwing Center

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and Ziibiwing Cultural Society opened a 32,000 square foot Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe (“First man to be lowered to earth”) Culture and Lifeways, located in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The Center is designed to enlighten and educate people from all cultural backgrounds on the history, heritage and culture of the various tribes in the Great Lakes area. It also gives people a meaningful understanding of Michigan tribes. The Exhibit portion of the center is called Diba Jimooyung. The name’s origin comes from the Anishinabe language, meaning “telling our story.” The Ziibiwing center also holds a research center, meeting and conference facilities, changing exhibit area, café, and a gift shop for all to enjoy.

The Ziibiwing Center provides children and adults of all ages with an interactive learning experience through the use of computer technology, artifacts, government documents, diorama, and contemporary and traditional art, treaties, multimedia, video productions, and educational programs and cultural workshops.

Your learning starts as soon as you enter the doorways of Diba Jimooyung. The Anishinabe language is a very important part of the center and one of the foundational elements; therefore it is used throughout the center and on printed materials.

The following are phonetic pronunciations and definitions of some words used at the center:



aa	as in knob	o	as in toe	a/u	as in mug	e	as in ray
oo	as in tune	i	as in it	ii	as in see		

The name of our center: Ziibiwing (zee-bi-wing) = place by the river.

Our Permanent exhibit: Diba Jimooyung (diba-jimoo-yung) = telling our story.

Our meeting rooms: Giigidiwigamig (gee-gidi-gahmid) = the place where speaking or discussion occurs.

Our gift shop: Meshtoonigewinoong (maysh-toon-igay-winoong) = the place where you find things out.

Our café: Shangewigamig (shawngay-wi-gahmig) = the place where you get nourished, fed.

Please visit the Ziibiwing Center to learn more about the Anishinabe Culture.



For more information please call 1-800-225-8172 Ext. 54750 or visit the site below:
www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing



Introducing the New CHR

Anni, I am Jessica Kota and I am the Native American Outreach Worker for the Ingham County Health Department. My family is from Aangemong Reserve of Ojibwe Indians in Sarnia, Ontario. My family has been involved with Indian Education for quite some time and I am honored to be able to continue this tradition.

I am excited to be involved in this new position created within the Ingham County Health Department. I advocate for Native peoples and their health. I assist them with transportation, education on prenatal care, childbirth, and parenting; as well as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, nutrition, and substance abuse. I also help them get connected to additional community services including food banks, housing and cultural education.

If you are interested in the program you must live in Ingham County and be Native American. If you have any questions or would like to enroll in the program, please feel free to contact me at:



Native American Outreach Program

Jessica Kota

606 W. Willow

Lansing, MI. 48906

517-702-3534 or 517-887-4322

Fax: 517-484-5169



Protection of Shared Water Resources

On May 12, 2004, the leaders from all twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan signed an intergovernmental accord with Governor Jennifer Granholm stating their dedication to preserve, protect and enhance the Great Lakes inland lakes, streams, rivers, and groundwater. The state along with the tribes have pledged to work together to prevent future contaminants and depletion of the waters and maintain and preserve diverse water resource habitats.

The tribes will meet with the Governor's Office twice a year to discuss water resource issues. Protecting the quantity and quality of the Great Lakes will include reducing exotic species and preventing pollution. Some strategies will include enforcement of water protection laws; recommendations for tribal, state, and federal legislation and international treaties; and coordination of permitting activities.

Further information can be obtained at www.michigan.gov



Mother Earth Water Walk 2004

On May 9, 2004, Lead Water Walk Grandmother Josephine Mandamin led a group of Water Walkers from Mount Pleasant, Michigan to the Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community near Escanaba. The walk took twelve days and spanned over three hundred miles. The Water Walkers began walking at sunrise and continued until sundown, when they stopped to rest and host community teaching sessions.

The Water Walkers' aim to raise awareness about the importance of preserving water as a natural resource. An Anishinabe prophesied that if humans continue treating water resources with negligence, in thirty years an ounce of drinking water will cost the same as an ounce of gold. Mother Earth Water Walk 2004 is meant to help all the People of the Earth.

The Mother Earth Water Walk began at the Walpole Island First Nation in Ontario, Canada. It follows in the footsteps of a great migration route from the east. The walk in May was just the first leg of the journey. The Water Walkers hope to walk around the entire Lake Superior Basin and anticipate that the entire journey will take two months. They hoped to arrive for Spring Ceremonies at the Bad River Indian Reservation in Wisconsin in June 2004.

The first annual Women's Water Walk took place in April 2003. Several Ojibchidaw women, or Warriors of the Heart, joined together and walked around the Lake Superior Basin.

You can help the Water Walkers on their journey by walking with them, providing escorts, raising awareness in your community about the importance of water and Mother Earth Water Walk 2004, and preparing communities for the arrival of the Water Walkers.

More information is available at www.motherearthwaterwalk.com.

Josephine Mandamin can be contacted at (989)824-8694, or jomandamin@shaw.ca.com



Michigan Indian Quarterly

Pow Wow & Events Schedule 2004



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Sept. 18-19	Trail of Courage Living History Festival	Rochester, IN Sponsored by Fulton County Historical Society Inc., 37 E. 375 N., 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.. Contact info. 574-223-4436; e-mail address: fchs@rtcol.com; web page: www.icss.net/~fchs
Sept. 18-19	Frank Bush Memorial Walk in the Spirit Pow Wow	Hastings, MI Historic Charlton Park Contact Anne Bush 269/945-3435 or Valerie Allmon 616/633-6905 Website www.walk-in-the-spirit.com
Sept. 24	Michigan Indian Day	East Lansing, MI MSU Campus in the Erickson Kiva 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.; "Healing Across the Generations: Body, Mind, Spirit" . Sponsored by The Michigan State University-School of Social Work and Lansing Community College. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.
Oct. 2	16th Annual CMU Pow Wow	Mt. Pleasant, MI Finch Field House; Contact person Matt Vanalstine @ 989-774-2704 or vanal1mj@mich.edu
Oct. 16-17	11th Annual Land of Falling Waters Traditional Pow Wow	Jackson, MI Parkside Middle School, 2400 Fourth Street, Sponsored by NASCO Movement. For more information call Linda Cypret 269/781-6409 or Heather Miller 517/768-8018
Nov. 5	Speakers Forum	Houghton, MI Sponsored by Michigan Tech University/AISES Memorial Union Building, Contact Lori Sherman 906/487-2920
Nov. 6	9th Annual Spirit of the Harvest Pow Wow	Houghton, MI Sponsored by Michigan Tech University/AISES Gates Tennis Center, Contact Lori Sheriman 906/487-2920

Updates on Pow Wow schedules can also be located/placed on our website:
www.michigan.gov/mdcr

If you have a Pow Wow or event to announce in the next issue of the Michigan Indian Quarterly, please complete and return the following form:

Date of Event: _____

Pow Wow & Event Reply

Name of Event: _____

Name of Sponsor (Organization): _____

Address of Event (Location, Street, City, State): _____

Contact Person and Telephone Number: _____

Fax this information to (517) 241-7520, or send via e-mail to DavisFl@michigan.gov

Please add/change my name and address to the newsletter mailing list.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

And Return to:



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